

Message Text

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SUBJECT: JUNE 28 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. WALTER PINCUS IN JUNE 28 WASHINGTON POST SAID "DRAFT ARMS CONTROL IMPACT STATEMENT ON NEUTRON ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD FOR LANCE MISSILE WILL GO TO WHITE HOUSE TODAY FROM ACDA, ACCORDING TO CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES." PINCUS SAID ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES "DEBATE WAS UNDER WAY YESTERDAY WITHIN ACDA AS TO WHETHER AGENCY WOULD USE IMPACT STATEMENT TO QUESTION NEED FOR PRODUCTION OF NEW GENERATION OF NEUTRON WARHEADS AND ARTILLERY PROJECTILES THAT IS BEING PUSHED BY PENTAGON. ONE KEY WHITE HOUSE SOURCE SAID YESTERDAY HE BELIEVED, AS OF NOW, 'PRODUCTION WILL GO AHEAD.' WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY JODY POWELL SAID LAST WEEK THAT PRESIDENT WOULD NOT MAKE UP HIS MIND UNTIL THIS FALL." SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL LAST WEEK WROTE ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE ASKING FOR ARMS CONTROL STATEMENT ON LANCE NEUTRON WARHEAD UNDER PROVISIONS OF LAW PASSED IN 1975. PINCUS SAID PELL'S UNCLASSIFIED

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DEMAND FOR IMPACT STATEMENT "MAY FORCE PRESIDENT TO TAKE POSITION ON ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPONS EARLIER THAN HE HAD EXPECTED." HE NOTED THAT KEY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN NEUTRON DEBATE SAID YESTERDAY THAT "ANYONE TRYING TO SELL (ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPONS) AS MORE USABLE IS PUSHING POLICY THAT IS NOT THAT OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION." PINCUS QUOTED OFFICIAL AS SAYING "THEY DON'T CHANGE PROBLEM OF NUCLEAR THRESHOLD AND IF THEY DID, THAT IMAGE WOULD BECOME MATTER OF PUBLIC CONCERN." PINCUS SAID "FOR THIS OFFICIAL, DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO PRODUCE NEW

GENERATION OF NEUTRON WEAPONS RESTS 'ON WHETHER IT IS COST EFFECTIVE TO MILITARY WHETHER THIS IS OPTION WORTH HAVING.'" PINCUS RECALLED THAT THREE YEARS AGO, WARNKE, THEN OUT OF GOVERNMENT, TOLD SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE THAT "NEW GENERATION OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD BE ABSOLUTE DISASTER." PINCUS OBSERVED THAT WARNKE WAS IN MOSCOW WHEN PELL LETTER WAS SENT "AND HIS TOP AIDES HAVE BEEN HANDLING PREPARATION OF IMPACT STATEMENT. FINAL DECISION ON WHAT IT WILL CONTAIN WILL BE WITH NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL -- AND THUS PRESIDENT. IT WILL BE FIRST SUCH IMPACT STATEMENT FROM CARTER ADMINISTRATION."

2. NEW YORK TIMES ON JUNE 28 PUBLISHED REUTER REPORT FROM MOSCOW QUOTING WARNKE AS SAYING THAT OCTOBER WAS NOT "ABSOLUTE DEADLINE" FOR NEW TREATY LIMITING STRATEGIC ARMS. WARNKE, ACCORDING TO DISPATCH, SAID ARMS LIMITATION HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED DURING HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW IN WHICH HE LED AMERICAN DELEGATION AT JOINT TALKS ON MILITARY COMPETITION IN INDIAN OCEAN. "BOTH DELEGATIONS WERE QUITE ENCOURAGED," MR. WARNKE SAID BEFORE FLYING BACK TO WASHINGTON."

3. SYNDICATED COLUMNIST JOSEPH KRAFT IN JUNE 28 WASHINGTON UNCLASSIFIED

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POST SAID PRESIDENT "NEEDS TO ADMIT, AT LEAST TO HIMSELF, HOW MUCH HIS HANDLING OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ARMS CONTROL HAS MADE HASH OF DOMESTIC SUPPORT FOR ANY DEALING WITH COMMUNIST WORLD. ONLY THEN CAN HE BEGIN TO RESTORE GOOD CONNECTION WITH SOVIET UNION -- PRESUMABLY AT EARLY SUMMIT MEETING WITH SECRETARY GENERAL BREZHNEV." KRAFT POINTED TO "DEEPENED AMERICAN SUSPICION OF MOSCOW" AND SAID THAT SUSPICION "IS COMING MORE AND MORE INTO PLAY AS LINES OF PROBABLE NEXT ARMS DEAL EMERGE. DEAL WILL HAVE TO CENTER ON WEAPONS DEVELOPMENTS THAT CANNOT EASILY BE VERIFIED -- NOTABLY RANGE OF CRUISE MISSILES AND EXACT DISPOSITION OF RUSSIA'S BACKFIRE BOMBER." HE NOTED THAT SENATOR JACKSON HAS RECENTLY BEEN SAYING THAT APPROVAL OF ANY ACCORD "WILL DEPEND LESS ON TRUST IN PRESIDENT CARTER THAN ON KIND OF VERIFICATION AGREEMENTS ADMINISTRATION CAN GET FROM MOSCOW. SO WHEN IT COMES TO SENATE RATIFICATION OF NEXT ARMS ACCORD, DARKER SUSPICION OF RUSSIA WILL COUNT MORE THAN HIGHER CONFIDENCE IN CARTER." KRAFT SAID "RAPID DROPPING OF COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSAL AFTER RUSSIAN NYET, MOREOVER, HAS SHOWN CARTER IN FULL RETREAT. DEMOCRATS SUSPICIOUS OF RUSSIANS ARE ALREADY WONDERING OUT LOUD WHETHER PRESIDENT DIDN'T GIVE UP TOO EARLY ON HIS ORIGINAL PACKAGE. THEY CAN LEGITIMATELY QUESTION WHETHER MOSCOW NOW HAS IMPRESSION IT CAN EXTRACT CONCESSIONS FROM CARTER SIMPLY BY THREATENING TO WALK AWAY. MY OWN IMPRESSION, ON RECENT TRIP TO MOSCOW, WAS THAT MANY RUSSIANS DID INDEED HAVE THAT IMPRESSION -- AND THAT MEANS THAT ARMS CONTROL ACCORD

NEGOTIATED NOW WOULD NOT GENERATE MOMENTUM FOR IMPORTANT NEW AGREEMENTS, BUT WOULD LEAD TO FURTHER TESTS OF STRENGTH." KRAFT SAID CARTER ADMINISTRATION "UNNECESSARILY GOT SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS OFF TO FALSE START" AND IDEAL WAY TO WIPE SLATE CLEAN AND BEGIN ANEW WOULD BE "NON-BUSINESS, GET-ACQUAINTED SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN CARTER AND BREZHNEV."

4. CHARLES W. CORDDRY OF BALTIMORE SUN REPORTED JUNE 25 UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT WELL-INFORMED DEFENSE OFFICIAL SAID IT WOULD TAKE SOVIET UNION UP TO 20 YEARS TO DEVISE DEFENSES FOR ITS TANKS AGAINST NEUTRON WARHEADS THAT ARMY WANTS TO PRODUCE FOR USE IN ROCKETS AND ARTILLERY. CORDDRY SAID DEFENSE OFFICIAL, WHO DID NOT WANT TO BE QUOTED BY NAME, TOLD HIM IT WOULD BE PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR RUSSIANS TO RE-EQUIP THEIR ARMORED VEHICLES TODAY WITH ANY SORT OF DEFENSE AND THAT IT WOULD TAKE UP TO 20 YEARS TO LEARN HOW TO DO SO. "ADVOCATES OF NEUTRON WEAPON ARGUE, IF IT CAME TO CASE OF USING NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR BEING OVERRUN, PRESIDENT WOULD FIND DECISION TO USE THESE ARMS MORE PALATABLE THAN TO USE BIG, 'DIRTY' WEAPONS NOW IN ARSENAL," CORDDRY SAID.

5. HENRY TREWHITT, WRITING IN JUNE 27 BALTIMORE SUN, SAID PRESIDENT CARTER COULD WIND UP PLEASING NO ONE WITH HIS SALT POSITION. "SOME SPECIALISTS MORE SKEPTICAL OF SOVIET INTENTIONS PERSIST IN SEEING SIGNS OF WAVERING IN ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO SALT. IN FACT, PRESIDENT HAS SHOWED NO INDICATION OF WILLINGNESS TO TOLERATE SOVIET SUPERIORITY IN WEAPONS. FOR THAT REASON HE MAY BECOME VULNERABLE TO CRITICISM FROM AMERICAN LIBERALS. SEVERAL POLICYMAKING OFFICIALS FORESEE DAY WHEN LIBERALS WILL GO PUBLIC WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR GREATER AMERICAN FLEXIBILITY IN NEGOTIATIONS. ONE PREDICTS EQUIVALENT IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CRITIQUE MADE RECENTLY BY SENATOR GEORGE S. MCGOVERN, LIBERAL SPOKESMAN, REGARDING DOMESTIC POLICIES. 'OUT OF HIS TRAINING AND BACKGROUND, PRESIDENT NEVER WILL ACCEPT AMERICAN MILITARY VULNERABILITY AS SEEN FROM MODERATE PERSPECTIVE,' THIS OFFICIAL SAYS. 'BUT HE PROBABLY WON'T PLEASE HARDLINERS EITHER.' TREWHITT SAID "WITHOUT SAYING SO PUBLICLY, ADMINISTRATION ALREADY HAS ALL BUT GIVEN UP HOPE OF PRESENTING NEW NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL TREATY UNCLASSIFIED

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TO CONGRESS BEFORE PRESENT TREATY EXPIRES IN EARLY OCTOBER. ASSUMPTION IS THAT BOTH MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON WILL OBSERVE PRESENT LIMITATIONS WHILE THEY CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS. BUT WHENEVER NEW TREATY IS SIGNED, MR. CARTER WILL NEED

APPROVAL OF TWO-THIRDS OF MEMBERS OF SENATE. HIS OWN REFUSAL TO FIT INTO CLEARLY DEFINED STRATEGIC MOLD MAKES CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO SPECIFIC TERMS LESS PREDICTABLE THAN IT MIGHT BE OTHERWISE."

6. JULY 4 ISSUE OF U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT SAID CARTER'S INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR POLICY "IS OFF GROUND, BUT IT ISN'T FLYING QUITE WAY HE WANTS IT TO." MAGAZINE SAID HIS CENTRAL GOAL "IS TO GET U.S. ALONG WITH WESTERN EUROPE AND JAPAN TO REDUCE DANGERS OF PROLIFERATING ATOMIC WEAPONS BY BANNING WIDESPREAD PROCESSING AND MARKETING OF PLUTONIUM FOR POWER GENERATION. THAT IDEA IS MEETING WITH FLAT REJECTION FROM MOST OTHER NUCLEAR NATIONS. IT IS MIRED DOWN IN CONGRESS, TOO, AND IS BEING WIDELY CRITICIZED BY ENERGY PLANNERS AND INDUSTRIAL LEADERS AROUND WORLD. ON OTHER HAND, CARTER'S INITIATIVE HAS BEEN SMASHING SUCCESS IN AT LEAST ONE WAY: HE HAS MADE WORLD MORE AWARE OF LETHAL HAZARDS OF ENERGY SYSTEM BASED ON PLUTONIUM."

7. U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT ALSO SAID "DON'T BE SURPRISED IF NUMBER OF NUCLEAR AND OTHER WEAPONS PROGRAMS ARE JUNKED BEFORE LONG. PRESIDENT CARTER O.K.'D THEM IN HURRY UNDER PRESSURE OF BUDGET DEADLINES BUT NOW PLANS TO TAKE CLOSER LOOK." MAGAZINE REPORTED THAT SOURCE CLOSE TO DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN EXPLAINS WHY "THERE HAVE BEEN FEW OF USUAL LEAKS FROM PENTAGON CONCERNING SOVIET-AMERICAN ARMS TALKS: JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF ARE NOT DISPLEASED SO FAR WITH WHAT CARTER HAS PROPOSED."

8. NEWSWEEK IN JULY 4 ISSUE REPORTED THAT U.S. OFFICIALS SAID THEY WERE NOT ALARMED BY BREZHNEV'S BLUSTER IN PARIS.
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"THEY INTERPRETED HIS COMPLAINTS ABOUT SALT TO MEAN THAT U.S. HAD NOT MOVED FAR ENOUGH TOWARD SOVIET POSITION. IN THIS VIEW, BREZHNEV DEFINES PROGRESS AS CONCESSIONS BY U.S., AND SO FAR WASHINGTON WAS NOT BUYING BLUFF."

9. GODFREY SPERLING JR. OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR REPORTED ON NEW CHECKS WITH POLITICAL LEADERS IN ALL GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS OF U.S. TOGETHER WITH RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH PEOPLE AT GRASS ROOTS. SURVEY INDICATES "VERY FEW PEOPLE KNOW WHAT SALT MEANS, WHAT WAS CONTAINED IN VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT, THAT CURRENT ARMS AGREEMENT BETWEEN U.S. AND SOVIETS RUNS OUT IN FALL, OR WHAT JOCKEYING BETWEEN MR. CARTER AND SOVIETS ADDS UP TO. BEYOND THIS WIDESPREAD LACK OF INFORMATION OR EVEN INTEREST IN DETAILS OF ARMS LIMITATION NEGOTIATION, THERE IS, IN FACT, GENERAL AND DEEP-DOWN DESIRE FOR PEACE. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT EVERYONE WANTS TO SEE END TO NUCLEAR ARMS RACE AND THREAT -- IF IT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED."

10. ROBERT G. KAISER IN JUNE 28 WASHINGTON POST SAID JACKSON STAFFER RICHARD PERLE "MAY BE ONE OF DOZEN MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON IN AREA OF STRATEGIC ARMS POLICY." IN LONG PROFILE, KAISER SAID "PERLE'S LINE IS HARD.... HE IS QUOTED IN NEWSPAPERS REGULARLY, REPEATEDLY. ONLY NOT BY NAME. PERLE APPEARS AS 'INFORMED SOURCE' OR SOMETHING OF KIND. 'HE IS UNQUESTIONABLY ONE OF OUR TOWN'S GREATEST LEAKERS,' ACCORDING TO ONE JOURNALIST WHO HAS DEALT WITH PERLE OFTEN." VANCE

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